

December 4, 1883.

Professor Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Sir Joseph Fayrer, F.Z.S., exhibited a portion of a Deer's horn apparently gnawed by other Deer, and made remarks upon this subject.

Mr. Sclater exhibited, on the part of Dr. G. Bennett, F.Z.S., four skins of a species of *Drepanornis*, obtained by Mr. Goldie in the vicinity of Port Moresby in Southern New Guinea, and pointed out that the southern form of this bird differed from the northern form, originally discovered by D'Albertis (and described P.Z.S. 1873, p. 560, pl. xlvii.), in the much paler colour of the rump and tail-feathers and in the more olivaceous tinge of the back. Besides this the elongated tufts on each side of the breast were not only tipped with dark purplish blue as in the northern form, but also suffused with this colour upon their outer surfaces.

Mr. E. P. Ramsay (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. vol. iv. p. 469) had already alluded to these differences, but had only been able to examine specimens.

Mr. Sclater thought that these differences were only of subspecific value, and proposed to indicate their existence by naming the Southern form *Drepanornis albertisi cervinicauda*.

Mr. Sclater remarked that the second species of *Drepanornis*, described by M. Oustalet (Ann. des Sc. Nat. ser. 6. Zool. vol. ix. Art. 5) under the name *Drepanornis bruijnii*, seemed not in any way to resemble the southern form, and was from the northern coast of New Guinea, still more to the east than *D. albertisii*.

Mr. Burton, F.Z.S., exhibited a supposed hybrid between a common hen Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) and a male Blackcock (*Tetrao tetrix*), which had been recently purchased at Leadenhall Market.

The following papers were read :—

1. Notes on some species of Birds of the family *Dicaïdæ*.
By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Department of Zoology, British Museum.

[Received October 9, 1883.]

In the course of a revision of the family *Dicaïdæ* or Flower-peckers, I have made the following notes on some of the species, which I believe may be of some interest.

The representative of *D. celebicum* in the Sula Islands turns out

to be a distinct species, of the same form and style of coloration as that bird, but with the sides of the body entirely olive. I propose for it the name of

1. DICÆUM SULAENSE, sp. n.

Dicæum celebicum, Wall. P. Z. S. 1882, p. 342 (nec Müll. & Schl.).

D. similis *D. celebico*, sed corporis lateribus olivaceis nec cinereis distinguendum. Long. tot. 3·66, culmin. 0·4, alæ 2·05, caudæ 1·15, tarsi 0·55.

Hab. Sula Islands (*Wallace*). Type in B. M.

I may add that this species is not the same as *D. sanghirensis*, Salvad., of which I have seen two examples in Capt. Wardlaw Ramsay's collection.

2. DICÆUM PULCHRUS, sp. n.

Dicæum rubrocoronatum, Sharpe, Journ. Linn. Soc. Zool. vol. xvi. p. 436 (nec Sharpe, 'Nature,' 1876, p. 339).

D. similis *D. rubricoronato*, sed pilei colore scarlatino magis extenso et usque ad nucham producto, et præcipue corporis lateribus flavicanti-olivaceis nec cinereis distinguendum. Long. tot. 3·2, culminis 0·4, alæ 2·05, caudæ 1·0, tarsi 0·4.

Hab. Astrolabe Mountains, S.E. New Guinea (*Goldie*). Type in B. M.

3. DICÆUM ÆNEUM, H. & J.

Mr. E. P. Ramsay has lent me a pair of birds from the Solomon Islands, and I find that the species is a very distinct one, allied to *D. pectorale*, but distinguished by its bronzy upper surface and the greater extent of grey descending on the chest, as well as the bright olive-yellow flanks.

4. DICÆUM TRISTRAMI, sp. n.

The type of this new species is in Canon Tristram's collection, and was obtained by Lieut. Richards in the island of San Cristoval. I add a full description of the specimen, as it is not to be compared to any of the other known species of Dicæidæ, belonging as it does to a group by itself, remarkable for its chocolate-brown back, black tail, and hoary grey face.

Adult Male. General colour above chocolate-brown, the mantle slightly streaked with a few hoary whitish margins to the feathers; wing-coverts darker chocolate-brown than the back; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills blackish brown; the inner secondaries chocolate-brown, contrasting sharply with the back; head brown, but mottled with blackish-brown centres to the feathers, the plumes of the forehead and vertex margined with hoary white, the latter slightly mottled with brown bases; lores, eyelid, fore part of cheeks, and base of chin blackish; hinder cheeks, throat, and fore neck

hoary white with brown bases to the feathers; sides of neck like the back; centre of breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts pure white, the sides of the body ashy; sides of upper breast brown, with hoary whitish edges to the feathers; axillaries and under wing-coverts white; quills dusky below, ashy whitish along the edge of the inner web; "bill black; feet black; iris grey" (*Richards*). Total length 3·5 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·3, tail 1·15, tarsus 0·55. (*Mus. H. B. Tristram.*)

5. DICÆUM SCHISTACEUM, Tweedd. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) xx. p. 537 (1877).

The type of this species, lent to me by Capt. Wardlaw Ramsay, appears to me to be a young bird of *D. rubriventer*, Less. The pale colour of the bill is characteristic of immaturity in this group of Flower-peckers; and in the British Museum there are some young specimens of the allied *D. hæmatostictum* which also differ from the adult in the absence of the red colour on the underparts and in being of the slaty grey above.

6. DICÆUM INORNATUM.

Myzanthé inornata, Hodgs. in Gray's Zool. Misc. p. 82.

This is a species distinct from *Myzanthé ignipectus* of Hodgson, with which recent authors have united it. It belongs to the dull-coloured section of the genus, containing *D. concolor* and its allies. It is doubtless to this species that the young male recorded by Dr. Scully from Nepal (Str. F. 1879, p. 261) really belongs, as he had doubts as to its being referable to *D. ignipectus*. I have examined the types of *D. olivaceum*, Walden, from the Karen Hills, in Capt. Wardlaw Ramsay's collection, and find that they also belong to *D. inornatum* (Hodgs.).

7. DICÆUM MODESTUM, Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 380.

This species appears to me to be the same as *D. everetti*, Tweedd., Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) xx. p. 537 (1877).

8. PRIONOCHILUS PERCUSSUS, Temm. Pl. Col. iii. pl. 394. fig. 2 (1826).

I have recently examined the type of *P. percussus* in the Leiden Museum, and find that it is distinct from the bird usually so called in collections from Malacca, Sumatra, and Borneo. The Javan bird, the true *P. percussus*, has the throat white, whereas the specimens from other above-named localities have a yellow throat, and must bear the name of *P. ignicapillus* (Eyton).